Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

How the Pill works

* Go through PBS’s animation “How the Pill works”
  + <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/amex/pill/sfeature/pop_cycle.html>
* Summarize what happens during a normal menstrual cycle and one when a woman is on birth control

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Normal menstrual cycle | Menstrual cycle with the Pill |
| Days 1-5 |  |  |
| Day 6-10 |  |  |
| Day 11-13 |  |  |
| Day 14 |  |  |
| Days 15-22 |  |  |
| Days 23-25 |  |  |
| Day 26-28 |  |  |

Answer the following:

1. An immigrant from a developing nation comes to this country. She has never had the opportunity to use birth control before so she understands little about it. She asks you how taking a pill everyday can keep her from having babies. (You know that the birth control pill contains progesterone and estrogen.) Explain to her why taking estrogen and progesterone keeps her from getting pregnant. Also, explain why she gets her period in the last week (these are sugar pills).

**An example of a good student answer:**“Taking estrogen/progesterone would prevent the egg from being released because it keeps LH and FSH low. Levels of estrogen and progesterone drop in the sugar pills and menstruation occurs.”

1. The woman and her husband are living separately but see each other occasionally. One day, the woman comes to you and tells you that she is pregnant and that the pills do not work. Upon talking to her you find out she only takes the pills when her husband comes to town. Explain to the woman why her way does not work.

**An example of a good student answer:** “A woman must take the pill every day. Randomly taking the pills cannot guarantee that LH and FSH will be low enough to prevent ovulation, thus resulting in possible fertility.”